the Office of the Accountant General of various States and Internal Audit of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

Purohitya Pathyakarma

235. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the factual position about the Purohitya Pathyakarma, reported in the Times of India dated the 3rd February, 2002;

(b) whether there is a serious move to introduce such a course; if so, what would be its various features; and

(c) how would it fit into rest of the faculty studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA] : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission has not introduced such a course.

Reforms in Schooling system

236. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report captioned, "Kids under Stress: The flipside of great expectations", which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 16th January, 2002, regarding suicide by an eight year old who refused to return to the residential school after the vacations;

(b) if so, whether Government have done study of the present schooling and examination system which, it is believed, caused a lot of stress on the child's mind; and

(c) what reforms, if any, are proposed to be made in the current schooling and examination system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA] : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) has addressed this issue appropriately in its latest National Curriculum Framework

for School Education and suggested all possible measures to (i) reduce the curriculum load on the learners and (ii) minimize the stress and the fear of examinations.

(c) The following measures are included in the said framework to reduce stress on students:

(i) Integration of Science and Social Science subjects up to class X;

(ii) Bringing Science and Mathematics courses close to life;

(iii) Emphasis on skills rather than theoretical details;

(iv) Inclusion of only relevant content for study in a balanced manner ;

(v) Reduction in importance of public examinations and holding the first public examination only after class X ;

(vi) Abolition of 'pass-fail' system up to class X; and

(vii) Introduction of grades in lieu of marks.

In addition to this, National Open School (NOS) unlike formal system of education allows the students total freedom to learn at their own speed and at their own places. They can study one subject at a time and take examination in the subject one by one.

Withdrawal of Manuscripts by ICHR

237. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICHR had withdrawn the manuscripts of a volume under the freedom of India project;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof;

(c) whether ICHR has decided to shelve the project altogether;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the details of action taken to facilitate publication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA] : (a) and (b) The ICHR has